

Hello;

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on changes that will possibly be made to Amateur radio licensing.

I have to disagree somewhat with this proposal by the NCVEC. I think that we need to keep 5 WPM element 1 testing for Amateur General and above license classes. I think that the entry level to amateur radio should not have to pass element 1.

I also think that entry level licensees should have a small portion of HF privileges in all bands, including 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Maybe something on the order of the upper 50 khz of each band. 10 meters already gives 200 khz for the coded techs for phone, so they could keep that for entry level, no code.

As far as automatically upgrading everyone to the next higher level, I don't agree with that. If the entry level were to get 50 khz of each band and 200 khz for 10 meters, then once they had a taste of HF, they might want to upgrade to the next level to get more frequency usage.

Maybe there should be some waiver for certain disabilities for element 1 testing. Other than that I still think that element 1 should be mandatory for upgrading to General or higher license levels.

I also think that the question pool for general and up should be removed from public view. I think that if someone wanted to upgrade, then more talent than just memorizing the correct answers should be required. The tests should have 35 or 40 for the entry level, not 20 like the NCVEC recommends.

I think that if a test is failed, then there should be a requalifying time of at least 10 days before the test can be retaken.

Dan Harriman ARS KC5GXL